MICHAEL D. BISHOP
8TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

428 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225–4872
(202) 225–5820 FAX

www.mikebishop.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2208

March 14, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As the subcommittee prepares its Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water appropriations legislation, we respectfully request that you continue to provide strong support for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Science and, in particular, the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) within the Nuclear Physics program.

As you know, DOE's Nuclear Physics program serves to advance many public policy interests, including national security, nuclear nonproliferation, and developing advanced technologies to diagnose and treat cancer, and other diseases. Another important program mission is to maintain the safety of the U.S. nuclear stockpile. According to a 2013 report from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) the Office of Science's nuclear physics facilities provide capabilities that, "allow NNSA to address important questions for the stewardship mission without constructing new, dedicated systems."

FRIB is a prime example of a cutting-edge nuclear physics initiative that has virtually all the benefits of a large-scale research factility, such as the previously proposed Rare Isotope Accellerator, but at roughly half of the cost. After a competitive selection process, DOE chose Michigan State University (MSU) as the site at which to build this new world-class research facility. DOE and MSU began work on FRIB in 2008. Since Fiscal Year 2009, FRIB has received its anticipated funding, totaling $475 million to date. The continued support of both the House Appropriations Committee and Congress, has allowed that this project to proceed, uninterrupted, to a point where, today, it is both on schedule and on budget.

Construction on FRIB broke ground in 2014, and in March 2017 the technical equipment began to be installed. Completion of construction is expected in Fiscal Year 2021. A disruption in funding, at this point in the project, would only cause delays and cost overruns.

Once completed, FRIB will be the most powerful radioactive beam facility in the world, serving at least 1,400 researchers. According to the 2015 Nuclear Science Advisory Committee Long Rang Plan, "Completing the FRIB construction is essential. Initiating its scientific program will revolutionize our understanding of nuclei and their role in the cosmos." The research performed at this facility will significantly impact the body of science on topics ranging from our understanding of the origins of stars to the development of new national defense and nuclear medicine technologies.

We thank you in advance for consideration of our support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bishop
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Dave Trott
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress